



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Customer Focus:

The biggest priority for me is increasing winter cover for upland game birds," said Kent Duckworth, who enrolled 290 acres in Lake County in the Wetlands Reserve Program. "I want to restore it to native habitat as much as possible; that's the overall idea." First, Duckworth worked with NRCS to reconfigure Stinger Creek, which runs through the property, to return it to a more natural meander. Additional areas were diked to hold water, and food plots of oats and barley were planted for upland game birds. More than 8,000 trees and shrubs have been planted for wildlife cover."

Montana Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

Montana's landowners have a strong interest in the WRP. In fiscal year (FY) 2001, 24 landowners submitted applications for WRP projects with an estimated value of over \$5 million when the State allocation was \$2,750,000. Therefore, the estimated value of unfunded applications was approximately \$2,250,000. To date Montana is servicing seven applications worth \$873,000 on a total of 558.3 acres of land with 374.5 acres of wetlands. The cost to acquire and restore these acres averages \$1,536/acre.

Accomplishments

Since 1995 Montana has accepted 97 applications. Montana currently holds contracts with 45 landowners on 17,237.3 acres of lands. Total dollars spent for the period 1995-2001 will exceed \$20,000,000. The average cost to acquire and restore these wetland acres is \$1,160/acre. There is an estimated 7,060 acres of wetlands that are being restored through activities that include ditch and drain plugs, excavation of small wetlands areas, dikes or small levees with water control structures, tree and shrub plantings, native vegetation reseeding, fencing, streambank stabilization and restoration, and wetland and upland management for wetlands related wildlife.

Program Benefits

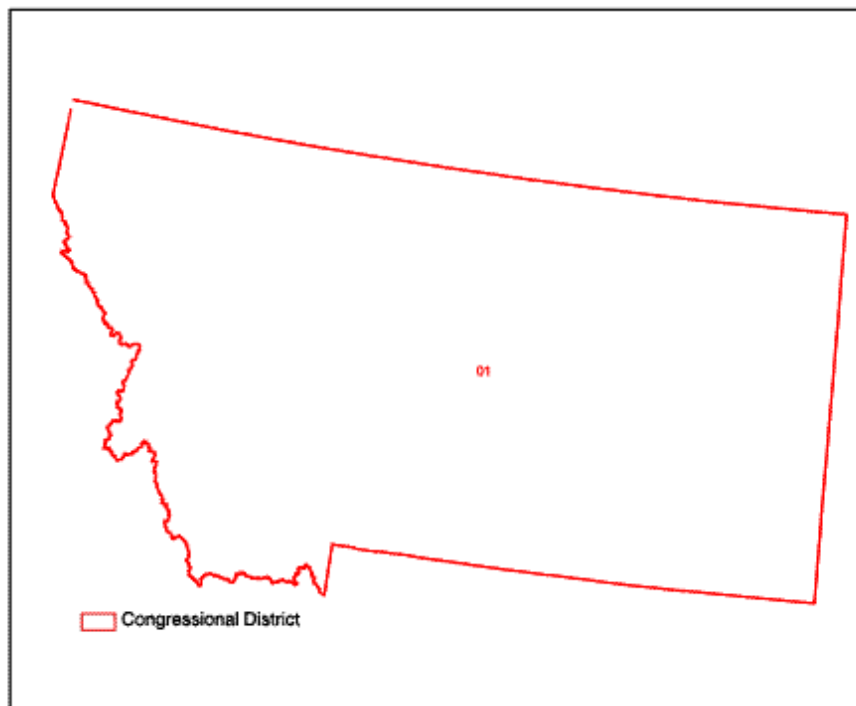
Montana has processed 97 applications from interested landowners around the state. This has lead to the enrollment of 19,940 acres into the program. An estimated 9,176 acres of wetlands will be restored and managed through the program. The total dollar amount that Montana has received for the program has exceeded 14 million dollars. This comes to an estimated \$702 per acre of land or \$1,525 per wetland acre restored. These dollars come as an immediate and direct payment to the landowner. This type of cash infusion can play a very big part in the landowners total economic picture, in a time when the picture can be somewhat bleak. The program is a win-win situation for Montanans as well as the nation's taxpayers. These valuable wetland resources can be restored to natural function, the landowner is given a just compensation and continues as an active partner in the endeavor.

Wetland improvements have and will include plugging ditches and drains, planting native trees, shrubs, and grass, streambank stabilization, creation of embankments and dikes with water control structures for deep water, and fencing.

State Contacts

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Montana WRP Dollars and Contracts



Montana WRP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$873,000	7	\$20,000,000	45
State Totals	\$873,000	7	\$20,000,000	45

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